

Jerry Denbo

State Representative • District 62



Spring, 2000

Dear Friends,

During this last session, I was particularly pleased that we passed a bill that would give state and local governments the right to display the Ten

Commandments on public property. This is a bill that I authored and was proud to do so.

The new law is not a mandate. Rather, it gives local governments the option to display the Commandments if they choose. It also would permit local officials to decide which version of the Commandments to display.

I welcome input from concerned citizens on topics of importance to you. Please contact my office if you have any questions or concerns regarding state government.

May God be with you,

A stylized, handwritten signature of the name "Jerry" in black ink.

The Ten Commandments Exodus 20:1-17

1. Thou shalt have no other gods before me.
2. Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image.
3. Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain.
4. Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy.
5. Honor thy father and thy mother.
6. Thou shalt not kill.
7. Thou shalt not commit adultery.
8. Thou shalt not steal.
9. Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor.
10. Thou shalt not covet.

Indiana was the first state in the nation to enact a law about the posting of the Ten Commandments. Several other states are expected to follow.

When I brought my bill to the legislature, I thought it would pass quietly. Recent polls have shown that this legislation reflects the sentiments of a vast majority of the people of Indiana.



As someone who is committed to the principles of the Ten Commandments, I was surprised by the extent of national media attention -- from stories in papers nationwide and on national television news programs, to a mention on *Who Wants to be a Millionaire?*

With the passage of my bill, a movement is now underway to erect a new monument of the Ten Commandments on the Statehouse grounds. A similar monument graced the lawn of the Indiana Statehouse in Indianapolis from 1958 to 1991.

However, the Indiana Civil Liberties Union has already filed a lawsuit to prevent the State from placing the monument on the Statehouse grounds. I can only hope that the controversy over this legislation ends soon.



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